

SUSTAINABLE CITIES NEWS & UPDATES

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Power in Numbers: Community Choice Aggregation

Governor Quinn often speaks of a unique collective spirit in Illinois. Our State is built upon a collaborative foundation that guides our innovation and energizes our citizens. Just as Abraham Lincoln united the Union, Illinoisans proudly embrace community today. In this issue of the newsletter we examine an increasing trend toward **Community Choice Aggregation (CCA)**. Through collaborative energy procurement, municipalities can literally power a community and, in the process, save money and increase environmental sustainability. The result is a collective energy system that illustrates the utility of the aggregated purchase of utilities.

Community Choice Aggregation allows communities to bundle residential, business, and municipal energy loads for the purchase of communal electricity. This union enables a cost savings as communities enhance their competitive market purchasing power. The savings also facilitate the purchase of renewable electricity that would not be available to consumers using individualized electricity systems.

In Illinois, dozens of municipalities have approved some CCA system. The Illinois Commerce Commission maintains an updated list of these communities.

- ♦ Click [here](#) for a list of communities that have implemented municipal aggregation programs
- ♦ Click [here](#) for a list of communities currently pursuing municipal aggregation programs

The [Illinois Community Choice Aggregation Network \(ICCAN\)](#) and the [Sierra Club](#) support the local adoption of these aggregation programs by providing resources and best practices to member communities. Visit their pages to access these resources.



Last year, Oak Park became the first community in Illinois to approve an all-green CCA power program for residents. The Village's contract with Integrys Energy Services provides residents with electricity from 100% green sources for 5.79¢/kWh. This saved customers 25% with a cumulative savings of \$4.5 million over the two-year contract. Residents still receive electricity and bills from ComEd but will enjoy lower rates. Additionally, consumers can choose to opt-out of the program at any time.

CCA systems stand at the frontier of environmental innovation and provide an energizing framework for future sustainability efforts. The programs prove that productive collaboration lies at the core of successful green initiatives. Through individual partnerships a community can achieve tremendous results that preserve our environment while paying dividends to individual stakeholders. Community aggregation then confirms that there truly is power in numbers.

Subscription Information

If you no longer wish to receive Sustainable Cities updates from the Office of the Governor, or wish to add a colleague to this list, please email Gabriel.Sulkes@Illinois.gov. For more information about Governor Pat Quinn's sustainability initiatives and the Illinois Green Governments Coordinating Council, please visit Green.illinois.gov



"The public policy of the State and the duty of each person is to provide and maintain a healthful environment for the benefit of this and future generations."
- Illinois Constitution, Article XI

Planes, Trains, Automobiles and...Bikes!

Sustainable transportation lies at the foundation of our State green operations as we search for environmentally-friendly alternatives for employee travel. While this administration embraces new technological innovations reduce our carbon footprint, there is nothing that can replace the bicycle. Cycling advances multiple State objectives including environmental sustainability, physical health, and fiscal prudence.

To promote cycling, the State participates in various regional Bike-to-Work events while supporting bike-share programs and bicycle infrastructure. On May 14th-May 18th, 2012, the Springfield-Sangamon County Regional Planning Commission and Springfield Bicycle Advisory Council staged a Curb Your Car/Bike to Work Week in Springfield and Sangamon County. 24 agencies/organizations participated in the event as employees across State government traded cars for bicycles. The event illustrates how State government continues to lead by example.

172 employees traveled **2379.75 miles** via alternative transportation. This saved **\$428.36** in fuel costs and **2,430** pounds of CO₂ emissions.

Click [here](#) for a full report from the week.

In Chicago, employees are gearing up for the Chicago Bike to Work Week and the Bike Commuter Challenge from the Active Transportation Alliance. Find more information and to sign up your office, visit BikeCommuterChallenge.org. This event follows the annual Bike the Drive event held on May 27th. More than 20,000 biked down a car-free Lake Shore Drive this year.

You can find updated information on the State's bike activities at Green.Illinois.gov



The Illinois Department of Revenue understood the taxing nature of motor fuel. The agency continues to be a State leader in sustainable transportation. Click [here](#) for more images from the "Curb Your Car Photo Contest"



The [Chicago Center for Green Technology](#) is thrilled to announce another season of green education resources.

CCGT hosts seminars, workshops, exhibits and other events on site throughout the whole year. Most of these events are free and open to the public. To find an event that fits your interests download the full [Summer 2012 program catalog](#) now. To register for any event visit the [Schedule & Registration page](#) and click on the date or topic of your choice. If you are pursuing a certificate through Green Tech U, and would like to know which seminars apply towards your certificate, you may download the [Semester-at-a-Glance calendar](#) separately.

The Center's Green Tech U program has been developed in response to the increasing demand for educational resources in green technology in Chicago. This seminar series provides an opportunity to increase knowledge of sustainability, green building, and public policy while meeting like-minded people and expanding professional networks.

Some upcoming Chicago programming includes:

- 1) [Green Cleaning 101](#), Wednesday, June 13th, 6:30pm-8:00pm
Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum, 2430 N Cannon Drive
- 2) [Beneficial Bugs in Your Garden](#), Thursday, June 19th, 12:30pm-2:30pm
First Floor Garland Room, Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E Washington, St.
- 3) [Green, Gorgeous, and all Yours: Building a Custom Green Home Project](#)
Saturday, July 21st, 10:00am-12:00pm
CCGT, 445 N. Sacramento Blvd.
- 4) [CCGT 10th Anniversary Celebration](#),
Saturday, June 16th, 10:00am-3:00pm
CCGT, 445 N. Sacramento Blvd.

Summer 2012



Midwestern Governors Association Launches Video Contest

On May 23rd, Midwestern Governors Association (MGA) launched a video contest, which will award over \$10,000 in prize money to the entry that best illustrates the collective strength of the Midwest.

The 'America's Smartland: Let the Midwest Surprise You' contest will run through December 2, 2012, with submissions accepted through October 15. In addition to a \$2,500 grand prize winner, one entry from each MGA member state will be identified through a public voting period and recognized through a \$1,000 "people's choice" award. The winning entry will be promoted by the MGA and featured at upcoming events and other activities designed to highlight the region.



To enter, develop a brief video (up to three minutes) that features your perspective on what makes the Midwest an ideal place to live, raise a family, get an education, build a career and grow a business. Entrants must be residents of an MGA member state - Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio and Wisconsin.

For more information on the contest, how to enter, voting or video criteria, visit the MGA's [video contest webpage](#).

Discovery Channel Canada films 'EVTown' show

The Central Illinois Pantagraph recently reported on the filming of a Discovery Channel Canada documentary in Normal, Illinois. The hour-long documentary, to be aired in fall 2012, examines the development and expansion of the Mitsubishi "i" electric vehicle. The filmmaker, Michelle Mama, interviewed Normal Mayor Chris Koos for the program and spoke with local residents who the i-MiEV.

In an interview with The Pantagraph, Mayor Koos stated that the Discovery Channel program, "shows shows we're on the right path promoting the electric vehicle. People are noticing a lot. I'm just doing my job as mayor: raising awareness of Normal. It makes more people aware of what a great community we have." (Ford, 2012).

You can read more about the Bloomington-Normal Electric Vehicle Task Force and other "EV Town" initiatives at EVTown.org



Sustainable Grant & Opportunities

1) Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation grants

The Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation provides funding to federally recognized 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations and state and local government agencies serving Illinois residents. The Foundation will not provide funding for remediation of environmentally impaired properties, technology research, promotion of proprietary products, reoccurring operating costs, political campaigns or lobbying, capital campaigns or support for an organization's endowment, or projects undertaken by individuals.

All grants are available at [this link](#). A series of grants will close on July 19th. These include:

Energy Efficiency

- ♦ [Existing Buildings Energy Efficiency Improvements](#)
- ♦ [Innovative Lighting Upgrades](#)
- ♦ [Model Energy Efficient Systems](#)

Renewable Energy

- ♦ [Solar Photovoltaic Installation](#)
- ♦ [Wind Turbine Installation \(≤100kW\)](#)
- ♦ [Biomass](#)
- ♦ [Advancing Renewable Energy](#)
- ♦ [Emerging Technologies](#)

Natural Areas

- ♦ [Land Acquisition](#)
- ♦ [Capacity Building](#)
- ♦ [Planning for Acquisition](#)



2) Applied Materials Foundation Grant

Applied Materials and the Applied Materials Foundation make grants to selected organizations and programs whose goals are closely aligned with the Company's values and interest. They direct approximately 15% of grants toward environmental awareness and sustainability. Grants are made for one year and may be renewed for up to two additional years based upon results. Applied Materials and the Foundation do not award grants for general operating expenses.

<http://www.appliedmaterials.com/about/cr/community/grants>

Applied Materials and the Foundation will review grant requests semi-annually, with the deadlines of January 15 and June 15.

Visit Green.Illinois.gov and our "[Green Funding](#)" page for more funding and technical assistance resources.



Moraine Valley Community College Hosts Electric Vehicle Forum



On **May 23rd**, Moraine Valley Community College in Palos Hills, IL hosted the second *DriveElectricIllinois* Electric Vehicle Forum. The forum was a day of discussion and education relating to the potential opportunities and challenges relating to the use of electric vehicles in Illinois. Presenters from different areas throughout the industry were on hand to share their insights and to answer questions from the audience.

This forum featured presentations from Argonne National Laboratory, the IBEW-NECA Technical Institute, ComEd, Ford, General Motors, 350 Green, the State of Illinois, and the City of Chicago. Speakers provided insights into industrial and infrastructure development while providing information on local, state, and federal incentive programs.

Over 80 enthusiastic attendees participated in this forum and represented colleges, universities, trade schools, electrical companies, dealerships, and government entities. The audience's passionate engagement motivated organizers to extend discussions beyond the programs conclusion. The forum then succeeded in promoting an Illinois electric vehicle community that stands as a national leader in green innovation,

Click [here](#) to view the agenda and presentations delivered at this forum. For information on past and future forums, visit DriveElectricIllinois.org. The next forum will be on **June 19th, 2012** at Southwestern Illinois College in Belleville, IL.

The DriveElectricIllinois forums are organized by the American Lung Association in Illinois and are sponsored by the [Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity](#), the [Illinois Environmental Protection Agency](#), and [Chicago Area Clean Cities](#). Additional Electric Vehicle forums will be scheduled across Illinois in the coming months and years.



USGBC-Illinois: A Fertile Source of Green Events

The U.S. Green Building Council's Illinois Chapter represents a central hub of Illinois sustainability news and events. Governor Quinn is a proud partner of our State's chapter and its tireless efforts to promote environmental education and initiatives.

We would love to promote each USGBC-Illinois event individually in this newsletter but the volume would overwhelm this publication. Instead, please find a smattering of upcoming events below and visit their [Event Calendar](#) for an exhaustive list of upcoming events and educational seminars.

Not a member of USGBC – Illinois? [Learn more and sign up here](#) or contact the Chapter Office!

- ♦ **[LEED Green Associate Study Session \(One ALL-Day Session - Elmhurst, IL\)](#)—June 6th, 2012**
7:45 AM - 5:30 PM, Marvin Windows and Doors, 457 W. Fullerton Ave., Elmhurst, IL 60126
The USGBC - Illinois Chapter's **LEED Green Associate Study Session** focuses on the key information necessary to pass the LEED Green Associate exam, including: the LEED implementation process, project site factors, water management, energy impacts, synergistic opportunities, stakeholder involvement in innovation, project surroundings, public outreach, test taking tips and strategies, and review practice exam questions.
- ♦ **[Tour & Case Study: Greenbelt Cultural Center: Improved Air Quality & Thermal Comfort Through Passive Means](#)**
June 14th, 2012
5:30 PM - 8:00 PM, Greenbelt Cultural Center, 1215 Green Bay Rd., North Chicago, IL 60064
Join the USGBC-Illinois Chicago Branch and the lead architect and design engineer on a tour of this 8,000 square foot expansion to the Greenbelt Cultural Center.
- ♦ **[Chapter Quarterly Business Meeting and Networking Event](#)—June 28th, 2012**
5:30 PM - 7:30 PM, Trendway Showroom, 325 N. Wells, Chicago, IL Across from the Mart
Join the USGBC - Illinois Chapter's for a Business Meeting and Networking event. Learn more about upcoming Chapter initiatives and programs. Meet current Chapter Branch and Committee representatives and gain insight on how you can get more involved in the Chapter!
- ♦ **[8th Annual - USGBC-Illinois, IIDA-Illinois and AIA Chicago Networking Boat Cruise](#)—August 14th, 2012**
5:30 PM - 8:00 PM, Mystic Blue Cruises - Boarding at Navy Pier (2nd to last boat), Chicago
Join the USGBC - Illinois Chapter's for a Business Meeting and Networking event. Learn more about upcoming Chapter initiatives and programs. Meet current Chapter Branch and Committee representatives and gain insight on how you can get more involved in the Chapter!



Caught Green-Handed

Mike O'Grady

Director of Grounds & Fleet Services, Illinois State University

In this edition of "Caught Green-Handed" we honor Mike O'Grady, Director of Grounds & Fleet Services at Illinois State University (ISU).

Missy Nergard, Director of Sustainability at ISU, nominated Mr. O'Grady for this recognition for his tireless efforts to institute a Community Food Waste Composting project for ISU and the Bloomington/Normal, IL district.

The Community Food Waste Composting project is a public/private partnership to divert food waste from the landfill. Over 180 tons of food waste have now been received at the University's composting site.

Mr. O'Grady was instrumental in the success of this project as he navigated layers of community bureaucracy and served as a liaison between various stakeholders.

Mr. O'Grady is a 35-year employee of the State and has a career devoted to sustainability initiatives at the state, municipal, and campus level. Throughout his career, O'Grady has cultivated relationships that produce fertile, green triumphs. His efforts illustrate the importance of thinking "outside of the box" as we develop sustainability networks that extend outside of our specific organization or community context.

Mike O'Grady—you have officially been caught green handed! Thank you for all that you do. You are an inspiration to your community and state.



Fresh Potpourri

1) Drive Electric Illinois — Electric Vehicle Forum

June 19th, 2012, 8:30am — 4pm

Southwestern Illinois College, Main Campus Theatre (2nd Floor), 2500 Carlyle Avenue, Belleville, IL.

Please join us for a day of discussion and education relating to the potential opportunities and challenges relating to the use of electric vehicles in Illinois. Presenters from different areas throughout the industry will be on hand to share their insights and to answer questions from the audience.

This is the third EV Forum hosted by the American Lung Association in Illinois with support from the Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, and Chicago Area Clean Cities.

Visit DriveElectricIllinois.org for more information and to register for this electrifying forum!

2) 1st Annual Illinois Green Business Summit

September 6th & 7th, 2012, 8am — 11:30am

Hilton Garden Inn, 1501 South Neil Street, Champaign, IL 61820

Join representatives from the private and public sector to discuss practical sustainability practices, learn about the challenges of going green and demonstrated examples of successes and benefits from industry professionals that can be replicated in your business, learn about IGBA's certification program, green technology, academic research and technologies, new innovations, incentive programs, and much more!

Five Tracks will be featured: 1) Where's the Green? 2) Certification – Why it Makes Cents 3) Green Technology and Research 4) Managing Resources 5) Local Economy

Click [here](#) to register for the Summit.

For more information visit:

<http://www.illinoisgba.com/Summit2012.aspx>

3) Sustainability Coordinator Opening at Prairie State College (Posting# 1000193)

Posting Date: 5/15/2012

The Sustainability Coordinator will assist College leadership in developing a campus-wide program of environmental stewardship and education and coordinate the implementation of initiatives focusing on energy conservation and alternative energy technologies, recycling, and environmental safety. The person will also coordinate community outreach on sustainability issues and activities.

Visit [this link](#) and select "Search Postings" to apply. The posting number is **1000193**.

4) Illinois Electric Vehicle Charging Station Rebate Program

Application Deadline: June 15th, 2012

Visit IllinoisEnergy.org/EV for information on State of Illinois EV incentives through the Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity. Charging Station rebates cover 50% of installation costs (equipment and labor) up to a maximum of \$3,500 for publicly accessible stations or a maximum of \$3,000 for non-publicly accessible stations. DCEO anticipates reopening the program in the next fiscal year.






Gabe Sulkes
James H. Dunn Memorial Fellow
Policy-Sustainability and Energy
Office of the Governor
JRTC | 100 W. Randolph | Suite 16-100
Chicago, IL 60601-3112
Phone 312.814.9799
Fax 312.814.52714

This resource is provided by the Office of Governor Quinn to Illinois elected officials, municipalities, counties, organizations, and individuals interested in supporting sustainability efforts in their communities. For more information on sustainability resources, please visit our website, www.green.illinois.gov.

If you would like to submit an item to be included in the newsletter please email Gabriel.Sulkes@illinois.gov.

Find us on Facebook 



Governor Pat Quinn honors state agencies and public institutions at the 2011 GGCC Green Governments Awards ceremony on December 17th, 2011 at the Executive Mansion in Springfield.